

JULY 29-31; TORONTO, ON, CANADA

OFFICIAL BROCHURE

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About the Avonlea Convention (AvCon)

The Avonlea Convention–also known as AvCon–was conceived in the early months of 2003. A group of people decided that if TV series like *Star Trek* could have fan conventions, then so could fans of *Road to Avonlea*. Initial planning commenced; a committee was formed. It would be held in Toronto that summer–"by the fans, for the fans."

Then, in March 2003, SARS hit the city of Toronto. At first, the committee members were not sure of what they should do. After careful consideration, it was decided that the conference be postponed until the summer of 2004. Potential attendees would feel safer attending; and the committee members would have more time to plan such an event properly.

The 2004 Convention, which took place from July 24 and 25 of that year at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto, was considered a success. Fans gathered from all around to meet their favourite actors and series executive producer Kevin Sullivan, and reminisce about the series that drew them all together. They also took in a Magic Lantern Show, thanks to Professor Lambert of the Magic Lantern Society. Finally, they got to flex their bidding muscles in an auction of Avonlea memorabilia.

2005 promises to have more. We have expanded our schedule from two days to three, and have brought back some of the features from last year's convention. We hope that AvCon 2005 will be as rousing a success as AvCon 2004 was.

Kindredly,

The AvCon Committee

About AvCon, Inc.

AvCon Inc. is registered as a nonprofit organization in the State of Michigan. Date of incorporation is May 5, 2004. We also hold a corporation registration number as a nonprofit external corporation in the Province of Ontario. AvCon Inc. was designed as a grass roots volunteer effort for the purpose of uniting fans and former participants of the Canadian television series *Road to Avonlea* in a cultural, educational and social event. Our profits, after clearing operating expenses, will be donated to charity. AvCon is self-supporting and relies on funds collected from registration fees and donations. It is run by an international committee of unpaid volunteers. It is our hope that with the success of AvCon, we can hold a conference annually or biannually with one or two different charity organizations benefitting each time from our efforts.

Our website is located at www.avonleaconvention.org To contact the committee, please send an e-mail to committee@avonleaconvention.org

About "Road to Avonlea"

Road to Avonlea debuted on January 8, 1990, on CBC-TV in Canada, during its "Family Hour" time slot of 7 pm local time; and in March of that same year on the Disney Channel in the United States, under the title Avonlea. Since its debut, it has aired in over 140; and the series chronicling the life and times of "story girl" Sara Stanley, her Island relatives, and their acquaintances continues to thrive in re-runs, video, and on DVD. Over its seven-season run, it received seventeen Gemini Awards, three Emmy Awards, and four Cable Ace Awards. It also has the distinction of being the highest-rated Canadian drama of all time, as well as being one of Disney's highest-rated series of all time. After seven seasons and ninety-one episodes, the series came to an end on March 31, 1996 in Canada; and in December of that same year in the United States. However, that was not the last we would see of the fictional town millions of people came to know and love. On December 13, 1998, fans of the series got to visit Avonlea one more time, with the premiere of the TV reunion movie, Happy Christmas, Miss King (also known as An Avonlea Christmas). A year later, it debuted in the United States, this time on the Odyssey Channel (now known as the Hallmark Channel).

As of now, Canadian fans may watch the series Mondays on Bravo Canada. It does not air in the United States at this time.

Schedule of Events

July 29, 2005

Tours of various *Road to Avonlea* filming sites. Former location manager Dan Matthews will be guiding the tour. This will take place all day. Please meet in the parking lot of Black Creek Pioneer Village between 9:00 and 9:30 am; the tour will start at 10:00 am.

July 30, 2005

10:00 am: Registration/Meet and Greet

10:30 am: Guest Speakers ~ Mag Ruffman and R.H. Thomson

12:30 pm: Lunch

1:45 pm: Guest Speaker ~ Lynda Naranjo

2:30 pm: Announcements

3:00 pm: Guest Speaker ~ John Welsman

5:00 pm: End of Day Two

July 31, 2005

10:00 am: Meet and Greet

10:30 am: Screening ~ Road to Avonlea: Behind the Scenes DVD

12:30 pm: Lunch

1:45 pm: Auction of Avonlea- and AvCon-related memorabilia

3:00 pm: One-on-One with Alexandra Heilbron and Harmony Cramp

5:00 pm: Q&A ~ James O'Regan

6:00 pm: End of Avonlea Convention 2005

Please note that times are subject to change and fluctuation.

Charities Supported

Like last year, we will be supporting two charities this year through this convention. This year, those charities are ShakespeareWorks and Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières.

ShakespeareWorks

Since 1997, Ontario schools have not been required to teach literature from any specific author, including William Shakespeare. Since then, it is possible for a student to go through high school without learning about Shakespeare's plays. ShakespeareWorks has been aiming to change that ever since.

To do this, the group has taken on four approaches, or "pillars". The first "pillar" is built during the school year, when professional actors come in to as many as sixty schools a year to workshop the Bard's plays with the students. In 2002, a summer program—the second "pillar"—was added. For two weeks, students can rehearse with professional actors. The third "pillar"—the theatre experience—was realized last year, when the group mounted a production of *Romeo and Juliet* for five weeks during late June and the majority of July in a temporary theatre space in Ashbridges Bay Park. The final "pillar" involves assisting the teachers in teaching Shakespeare's plays to their students. ShakespeareWorks plans to approach the Ontario College of Teachers to create a program for them.

We are proud to have ShakespeareWorks as our local charity of choice for 2005. For more information, please visit their website at www.shakespeareworks.com

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières

Doctors Without Borders, also known as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), was founded by a group of French doctors in 1971 who believed that medical care should be available to everyone, regardless of who they are and where they're from. Quickly, it became one of the first non-government-run organizations to provide emergency medical care and give first-hand

accounts of what was happening where they were working—whether it was a country ravaged by war, or one ravaged by a natural disaster.

Currently, MSF has chapters in eighteen countries. Every year, over 2,500 nurses and doctors, along with other workers and administrators combine forces with 15,000 staff members to bring medical care to over eighty countries. This organization also provides a voice to those who can't speak out in regards to violations of humanitarian law.

We are proud to have Doctors Without Borders as our international charity of choice for 2005. For more information, please visit their website at either www.msf.ca or www.doctorswithoutborders.org

Guest Speakers

Harmony Cramp (Young Cecily King)

Harmony Cramp's sole claim to fame is her role as Cecily on *Road to Avonlea* during its first five seasons. Before that, she had a very small role as a girl in a fire in *The January Man* with Kevin Kline; and she guest starred in an episode of CTV's *The Campbells*.

Harmony left *Avonlea* after its fifth season, as the writers wanted to mature Cecily's character more and believed they needed a more capable actress to achieve that goal. She retained an agent for several years; but eventually gave up acting. She has worked as a data entry clerk; and now lives in Mississauga with her young daughter. Harmony has not ruled out returning to acting, though; so, in a few year's time, you may see her on-screen again.

Harmony graced us with her presence last year at the inaugural convention; and we are pleased to have her back this year.

Harmony Cramp will be meeting with fans on Sunday at 3 pm, sharing time with Alexandra Heilbron.

Alexandra Heilbron

no photo available While she may not be a cast or crew member, Alexandra Heilbron certainly knows quite a bit about *Road to Avonlea*, as well as about the world of Lucy Maud Montgomery.

From 1994 until it ceased publication in 1999, she was editor of the Avonlea Traditions Chronicle, and has interviewed most of the series' cast. She has also contributed articles and interviews to *Kindred Spirits*, *MacLean's*, and *TV Times*, among other publications. Alexandra also co-edited *The L. M. Montgomery Album* (which earned her a writing award from the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation in 2000) and authored the book *Remembering Lucy Maud Montgomery*.

She currently works as online editor of Tribute Publishing and writes articles for their various publications.

Alexandra Heilbron will be meeting informally with attendees on a one-on-one basis on Sunday at 3:00 pm, sharing time with Harmony Cramp. Copies of Remembering Lucy Maud Montgomery will be available for purchase.



Lynda Naranjo

Taught to sew by her mother as soon as she could hold a needle, Lynda Naranjo has been sewing ever since. While she has always been passionate about "old clothes and old houses", it wasn't until she started working as a historical interpreter at a living history museum that Lynda began to sew historical costumes. At first, she sewed her own costumes

to wear at the museum and was soon sewing costumes for friends and coworkers. She gradually built up a clientele that included museums and historical re-enactors.

Although no longer sewing professionally, Lynda still creates costumes primarily for herself and continues to research the fashions from the Victorian and Edwardian eras, particularly the 1860's, 1870's and 1910's.

She is an active member of her local historical society as well as several online costuming forums. You may also visit her website at www.amongthehedgerows.com

Lynda Naranjo will be discussing "The Changing Fashions of Avonlea" on Saturday afternoon at 1:45 pm.



James O'Regan (Constable Abner Jeffries)

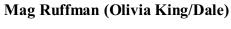
James O'Regan does a lot these days. Most of the time, he's an actor, a writer, a producer, and an editor. Viewers may remember his acting from his many commercials, as Constable Abner Jefferies on *Road to Avonlea*, from the TVO series *Renovating: The Inside Story*, and on various other series including *Top Cops*, *Katts & Dog*, *ENG*, *Hitchcock*, *Twilight Zone*, *Street Legal*, *T&T*, *Friday the 13th*, and a comedy pilot

Peeping Tom playing a cross-dresser! Film credits include Two's a Mob, Marciano, Hurt Penguins, Blue City Slammers, Clarence, Dream Team, Sea of Love, Anne of Green Gables II, Lantern Hill, The Stork Derby, and Les Années noires for la Société Radio Canada (SRC, CBC's French-speaking TV station). His writing credits are extensive and cover theatre, film, television, advertising, radio, and various print media. James has also produced in theatre, radio, television and film. He has been a PR consultant for the arts and business. He offers communications training for religious and secular organizations.

One of his most ambitious projects was the short comedy film *Edsville*, which he conceived, co-wrote, script-edited, produced and acted (playing a priest) in. It became the first short film to generate box office revenue in repertory cinemas across Canada with a theatrical audience of 10,000, played in 15 festivals world-wide and had its prime-time network premiere on CBC, January 18, 1992, out-drawing all CBC comedies for the week. *Edsville* had its US premiere in New York over Christmas 1992, and continues to play theatrically in Canada and the US. It also earned him a Golden Sheaf Award nomination and a Genie nomination for Best Live Action Short in 1991.

Recently, he wrote a feature length fantasy comedy film, *True Life*, now on the market in Los Angeles and is currently developing television, film and new media creative. You may visit his website at www.jamesoregan.com

James O'Regan will be doing a Q&A session on Sunday afternoon at 5 pm.



Born and living in Richmond Hill, Ontario, Mag is a graduate of the University of Toronto, where she majored in Physical Education. Shortly after graduating she auditioned for a part in a dinner theatre production of *Hello Dolly*, and later won The du Maurier Search for the Stars. Her first screen role was in the 1980 film *Murder by Phone*. She

has also appeared in two Perry Mason movies, and many Anne fans recognize her as Alice Lawson in the first two Anne movies. Before *Road to Avonlea* her other credits included *Reckless Disregard, Alex: The Life of a Child*, and *Looking for Miracles*.

Mag had gotten the call to audition for the role of Aunt Olivia just as she was getting ready to move to California in the summer of 1989. She got the part and ended up returning to Ontario to start shooting. A few months after that, she went back to California and met her then-future husband Daniel Hunter at a party. Three weeks later, they were married; and for the entire seven-year run of the series, she commuted back and forth from California to Ontario. As well, she received two Gemini nominations for the role—one in 1996 for the series, and another one in 1999 for reprising the role in *Happy Christmas, Miss King*.

In the later part of the 1990s, Mag had a role in the TV movie *Shadow Lake* and provided the narration for the animated short film *My Grandmother Ironed the King's Shirts*. She has also hosted three shows for Canada's Women's Television Network--*A Repair to Remember* (which lasted five years), *Men on Women*, and *Anything I Can Do* (which earned her two Gemini nominations in 2002--one for the series itself, and another for hosting it). A licensed carpenter, she also has her own "Tool Girl" column in various newspapers across Canada and the United States. In 2003, fifty of Mag's newspaper columns were compiled and put together to form the book, *How Hard Can It Be*, available in Canadian bookstores. She now dispenses her knowledge of carpentry on her new website, www.toolgirl.com

Mag will be speaking on Saturday morning at 10:30 am, sharing time with R. H. Thomson.



R. H. Thomson (Jasper Dale)

Born in Richmond Hill, Ontario, R. H. Thomson is one of Canada's brightest talents. He has been nominated for four Genie Awards (winning one in 1983 for *If You Could See What I Hear*), eight Gemini Awards (winning one in 1989 for *Glory Enough for All* and a second in 2003 for a presentation of his play *The Lost Boys* on *CBC News*

Sunday), and won a Dora Award for Hand to Hand in 1983.

One of his first on-screen roles was in 1977's *The Newcomers*. From there, he went on to do many plays, movies, and series—including *Stranger in My Bed*, *The Lotus Eaters*, *Murder at My Door*, *Trudeau*, *Copenhagen*, and *Human Cargo*. He is also a director, directing projects for many of Canada's well-known theatre venues and companies—from Can-Stage to the National Arts Centre, to Theatre New Brunswick and Ship's Company Theatre in Nova Scotia.

R. H. is also a founding member of Shakespeare Works, a Toronto-based organization devoted to bringing the works of William Shakespeare to Canadian students. Last year, he directed the organization's inaugural production, *Romeo and Juliet*.

He was one of our guest speakers at our inaugural convention; and we are delighted to have him return for AvCon 2005.

R. H. Thomson will be speaking on Saturday morning at 10:30am, sharing time with Mag Ruffman.



John Welsman (Composer)

John Welsman is a composer, producer and arranger of music for television and film. An 11-time Gemini Award nominee for his work, John was awarded the 1990, 1992, 1995 and 1996 Gemini Awards for his work on *Road To Avonlea*. He was also awarded the 1994 Gemini Award for 'Best Original Score for a Program or Mini-Series' for *The*

Bellringer.

Other composing credit highlights include the television movies *Stolen Miracle*, *Murder Most Likely*, *Borrowed Hearts*, and *In His Father's Shoes*. He has also scored documentaries like *David Suzuki's The Sacred Balance*, *Raising The Kursk*, *Moby Dick* – *The True Story* and the miniseries *Medical Mysteries*. Other television series scored include *My Life As A Dog*, *The Twilight Zone*, *My Pet Monster* and *Comics*. John also composed the opening theme for the late Peter Gzowski's series *Gzowski In Conversation*.

John Welsman will be speaking on Saturday at 3:00 pm.

Tour of Filming Sites

Our first day of AvCon will not take place at Black Creek Pioneer Village. Instead, we are pleased to give attendees a tour of various sites used during the filming of *Road to Avonlea*. Our tour guide will be former location manager Dan Matthews. He has worked for Sullivan Entertainment since 1989, first as office manager, then location manager and currently as production manager. He worked all 7 seasons of *Road to Avonlea* as location manager and was the production manager on all 5 seasons of *Wind at My Back*, as well as various movies.

Stop #1: Pickering Museum Village

Several exteriors for *Road to Avonlea* and *Anne of Green Gables* are located here. Some buildings also supplied interiors for various episodes as well as in *Happy Christmas*, *Miss King*. http://www.cityofpickering.com/museum/index.html

Stop #2: Uxbridge

Located here is Pine Grove Church, where virtually all of the series' church scenes were filmed. This town was also home to the exteriors for the town of Avonlea itself. Unfortunately, all of those shells have long since been destroyed; the only remnant is the house used for the exterior of the Kings' house, which is an actual house in which a family lives to this day. The same house was used for wide angle shots of Green Gables and served as the exterior for the title house in *Lantern Hill*.

http://www.uxbridge.com

Stop #3: Black Creek Pioneer Village

Our site for the remaining two days of AvCon will be here. Another good deal of *Road to Avonlea*'s exteriors are located here—the most notable of which being the town hall. (For those who attended AvCon 2004, the "Undressing History" discussion was held in the town hall.) http://www.blackcreek.ca

Auction

We will be having an auction of Avonlea-, Anne-, and AvCon-related memorabilia on Sunday afternoon at 1:45 pm. We are pleased to have professional auctioneer Mike Matthews return to act as our own auctioneer. He has also portrayed an auctioneer on two *Road to Avonlea* episodes—"Aunt Abigail's Beau" and "Friends and Relations"—as well as the premiere episode of *Wind at My Back*, "Four Walls and a Roof."

Proceeds from the auction benefit our two charities. Please note that the currency of choice for this auction is Canadian dollars. We will accept cheques for donated items won; please make them out to either ShakespeareWorks or Doctors Without Borders.

All Items

- ♦ Various issues of *Avonlea Traditions Chronicle*
- ♦ Three photos of Michael Mahonen posing with *Remembering Lucy Maud Montgomery* by Alexandra Heilbron
- ♦ Two copies of "Return to Me" on VHS
- ♦ Three copies of other *Road to Avonlea* episodes
- ♦ One black and white head shot of Michael Mahonen
- ♦ An audio tape of *The Red Badge of Courage*, featuring Michael Mahonen
- ♦ Conspiracy of Silence by Lisa Priest (the book on which the TV miniseries featuring Michael Mahonen is based)
- ♦ Road to Avonlea pillow
- Two *Avonlea* mugs (one autographed, one not autographed)
- One basket with various *Road to Avonlea* books, candles, candy/chocolate
- ♦ Two AvCon tote bags
- ♦ One AvCon t-shirt
- One "Hearts and Flowers" AvCon mug, filled with candy
- One AvCon heart-shaped bottle/vase, filled with potpourri

- ♦ Exclusive *Road to Avonlea* "Behind the Scenes" DVD, provided by Sullivan Entertainment (the same one being screened on Sunday) †
- ♦ A one-of-a-kind canvas tote with a painting of Sara looking out over North Rustico harbour, with various L. M. Montgomery novels, a fleece blanket, scone mix or tea, and three bookmarks depicting *Road to Avonlea* filming locations inside
- ♦ A set of eight note cards, with photographs of Prince Edward Island
- ♦ Autographed black and white headshot of Michael Mahonen
- ♦ Autographed black and white headshot of Zachary Bennett
- ♦ Anne of Green Gables set with an Anne of Green Gables paper doll kit, an Anne of Green Gables stationary set, Anne of Green Gables Song Album with music from the musical by Norman Campbell, and The Avonlea Album from 1991 (this has a sticker on the inside cover)

Please note that auction items are subject to be dropped from or added to the above list at any time.

† At the time of publication, there is no set price for this item. If there is, Sullivan Entertainment will receive the set price, and any overage will go to charity.

Kindred Creations: AvCon Keepsake Boutique

Your purchase of a Kindred Creations product helps support AvCon 2005. Kindred Creations is a non-profit division of AvCon, Inc. One hundred percent of Kindred Creations' pre-tax proceeds benefit AvCon 2005 and/or the organisations we are currently sponsoring. Please note that all prices include a required 8% sales tax. Our exchange rate for Canadian and US dollars is a difference of 20% (\$1 USD = \$1.20 CAD).

The supplies and the time involved in making these items have been donated. After our costs are considered, any additional proceeds will be donated to this year's causes. Please note that since these items have been designed and made specially for AvCon, we only have limited quantities. Items will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you would like us to hold an item for you, you must pre-pay. We will accept cash in either currency or cheques made out to AvCon, Inc..

If you have a craft or other item which you would like to donate to the next AvCon, please contact the committee on the AvCon Boards at shellysavonlea.net.

ITEMS	PRICE
Edwardian Hat	\$51.84 CAD/\$43.20 USD
Holiday Ornament	\$6.48 CAD/\$5.40USD
Limited Edition AvCon 2005 Mug	\$12.96 CAD/\$10.80USD
Limited Edition AvCon 2005 T-Shirt	\$25.92 CAD/\$21.60 USD
Limited Edition AvCon 2005 Tote	\$12.96 CAD/\$10.80 USD
Glass Jar	\$6.48 CAD/\$5.40 USD
Vase	\$6.48 CAD/\$5.40 USD

Other Events

During AvCon, there will be other events happening involving *Road to Avonlea* alumni throughout Ontario, which you are encouraged to support, if you can.

Taming of the Shrew ~ Presented by ShakespeareWorks. Directed by David Ferry.

ShakespeareWorks presents perhaps the most famous play ever written about the battle of the sexes. Petruchio arrives in Padua looking for a wife, a rich one. The wealthy Baptista has a daughter, Kate whom he wants to get off his hands, but she has a reputation as a shrew... a scolding tongue and a fierce temper. Petruchio also has a reputation, as a wild boy.

Will he take on Kate?... and who will tame whom?

Tickets range from \$20-25 CAD for adults, and are only \$2 for students. Performances during AvCon are July 29 and 30 at 8 pm at the Home Depot Theatre in Ashbridges Bay Park in Toronto. Above info courtesy of www.shakespeareworks.com

Blue Moon Pub ~ With Yonder (front man Zachary Bennett), The Little Pilgrims, Broadband, and Correia-Damude.

Yonder will be performing with the above acts in a sort of "Battle of the Bands" style. Yonder will take on The Little Pilgrims; Broadband will be up against Correia-Damude. This should make for a night of fantastic music.

The Blue Moon Pub is located at 725 Queen St. East in downtown Toronto. Doors open at 8 pm; and there is a cover charge of \$5 CAD. For more info on the Blue Moon, visit www.toronto.com/profile/632121. To sample Yonder's music, search for them at www.newmusiccanada.com

The Tempest ~ Presented by the Nipissing Stage Company. Featuring David Fox and Michael Mahonen.

Former duke Prospero, also a magician, is stranded on an island with his daughter Miranda. Through his powers, he learns that trouble is coming, so he summons a storm to wreck the ship. The survivors come to shore; and, from there, a tale of romance, redemption, and greed is formed. This is said to be the last complete play Shakespeare ever wrote.

Members of the Committee and other attendees will be attending the Monday, August 1, performance, which is part of the North Bay Heritage Festival in North Bay, Ontario.

Admission is free for the day; the performance takes place at 10 am on the waterfront. For information on the company and to learn of other performance dates and time, visit www.nipissing.com; for information on the Festival, visit www.heritagefestival.com. Michael will be on-hand after the performance to sign autographs and whatnot.

Rules of Conduct

As with many events, there are various rules you, as attendees, must adhere to at all times.

- 1. During formal discussions, please remain as quiet as possible so that other attendees will be able to hear what's being said. If you have a cell phone or a pager on you, please turn them off or set them to "vibrate."
- 2. If you have a question for a panelist, please raise your hand and wait to be called upon. Please state your question in a clear, concise, and respectful manner. Please also make sure your questions stick to the person's work or to common knowledge subjects; keep their private lives just that—private.
- 3. A barbecue stand and restaurant will be open at 11:00 am each day at Black Creek Pioneer Village, should you need refreshments. Please note that lunch is not covered in your registration fee.
- 4. If a committee member finds that you are misbehaving, you may be asked to leave. If so, your admission fee will not be refunded.
- 5. HAVE FUN!

Acknowledgments

The AvCon Committee would like to acknowledge the following people or organizations for their assistance regarding this event...

- ♦ ShakespeareWorks
- ♦ Doctors Without Borders
- ♦ Zachary Bennett
- ♦ Harmony Cramp
- ♦ Rosemary Dunsmore
- ♦ Alexandra Heilbron
- ♦ Michael Mahonen
- ♦ Lynda Naranjo
- ♦ James O'Regan
- ♦ Mag Ruffman
- ♦ R.H. Thomson
- ♦ John Welsman
- ♦ Dan Matthews at Sullivan Entertainment
- ♦ Kevin Sullivan for his co-operation
- ♦ John Richardson at Black Creek Pioneer Village
- ♦ Travelodge hotels in the North York area, for accommodation assistance
- ♦ York University, for accommodation assistance (particularly Nicole)
- ♦ Tourism Toronto
- ♦ Mike Matthews, for being our auctioneer
- Our friends and family, for encouragement and advice
- ♦ The fans—this was, and is, for YOU, after all!

See you at the next Convention!